

I will include our letters on H.R. 1850 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this Nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,

Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1850, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. H.R. 1850 authorizes the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory within the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology directorate.

This important lab tests and evaluates emerging technologies and conducts research and development to assist emergency response providers in preparing for and protecting against Homeland Security threats.

The lab also works to enhance first responder capabilities by partnering with stakeholders to develop viable solutions to radiological and nuclear threats and by acting as a technical adviser to the first responder community.

The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory has assisted in training thousands of State and local first responders during more than 130 training events with State and local agencies throughout the New York City metropolitan area. With New York still serving as a top target for terrorist and other security threats, now is the time to support our front line emergency response providers.

Madam Speaker, I commend my fellow New York colleagues, Representatives RICE and GARBARINO, for leading on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 1850, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE).

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 1850, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act.

This bipartisan bill would permanently authorize the New York City-based National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, which has been commonly referred to as NUSTL.

□ 1400

NUSTL's mission is to develop and test new tools for our first responders to utilize in response to terrorist attacks, natural disasters, accidents, and other large-scale events.

There is no other lab in the country doing this critical counterterrorism and emergency response work, and it is more important now than ever before.

From the rise in domestic extremism to stronger and more frequent storms as a result of climate change, the threats facing our Nation are pressing. We must make sure our first responders are best equipped to handle any potential emergency, and providing sup-

port for NUSTL will help us accomplish that goal.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman GARBARINO, my colleague on Long Island, for co-leading this legislation with me, and I would also like to thank Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KATKO for their help in getting it on the floor.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I want to adopt a comment of my colleague from New York (Ms. CLARKE) about the great State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1850 is a bill to protect our protectors. At the very least, those on the front lines deserve to go to work with the certainty that their equipment will work when they need it the most. They should not have to ask themselves: Will it function under pressure? Can it take the heat?

We owe it to the nearly 2 million Americans who put their lives on the line to protect us to ensure that NUSTL is operational and resourced to test their equipment.

This fall, we will be observing the 20th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks that shook this Nation to its core. The 9/11 attack was not only the single deadliest terrorist attack in human history, but it was the deadliest incident ever for firefighters and law enforcement officers in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, 343 New York City firefighters, 23 NYPD officers, and 37 Port Authority officers died that day. By enacting H.R. 1850, we can ensure that as threats continue to grow and change, NUSTL will be there to provide critical technical support to our first responder community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) for this legislation, and I ask that my colleagues support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCNERNEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1850.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

DHS MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES ACT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3263) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a medical countermeasures program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3263

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Medical Countermeasures Act".

SEC. 2. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1932. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a medical countermeasures program to facilitate personnel readiness, and protection for the Department's employees and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic, and to support Department mission continuity.

"(b) OVERSIGHT.—The Chief Medical Officer of the Department shall provide programmatic oversight of the medical countermeasures program established pursuant to subsection (a), and shall—

"(1) develop Department-wide standards for medical countermeasure storage, security, dispensing, and documentation;

"(2) maintain a stockpile of medical countermeasures, including antibiotics, antivirals, and radiological countermeasures, as appropriate;

"(3) preposition appropriate medical countermeasures in strategic locations nationwide, based on threat and employee density, in accordance with applicable Federal statutes and regulations;

"(4) provide oversight and guidance regarding the dispensing of stockpiled medical countermeasures;

"(5) ensure rapid deployment and dispensing of medical countermeasures in a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic;

"(6) provide training to Department employees on medical countermeasure dispensing; and

"(7) support dispensing exercises.

"(c) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES WORKING GROUP.—The Chief Medical Officer shall establish a medical countermeasures working group comprised of representatives from appropriate components and offices of the Department to ensure that medical countermeasures standards are maintained and guidance is consistent.

"(d) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES MANAGEMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Chief Medical Officer shall develop and submit to the Secretary an integrated logistics support plan for medical countermeasures, including—

"(1) a methodology for determining the ideal types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile and how frequently such methodology shall be reevaluated;

"(2) a replenishment plan; and

"(3) inventory tracking, reporting, and reconciliation procedures for existing stockpiles and new medical countermeasure purchases.

“(e) STOCKPILE ELEMENTS.—In determining the types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile under subsection (d), the Chief Medical Officer shall utilize, if available—

“(1) Department chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risk assessments; and

“(2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on medical countermeasures.

“(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the plan developed in accordance with subsection (d) and brief such Committees regarding implementing the requirements of this section.

“(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘medical countermeasures’ means antibiotics, antivirals, radiological countermeasures, and other countermeasures that may be deployed to protect the Department’s employees and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 1931 the following new item:

“Sec. 1932. Medical countermeasures.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3263, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3263 seeks to establish a medical countermeasures program to facilitate the readiness and protection of personnel and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack; disease outbreak; or pandemic.

H.R. 3263 requires DHS’ chief medical officer, or CMO, to provide programmatic oversight of the medical countermeasures program and establish a medical countermeasures working group comprised of relevant DHS components.

Additionally, the bill requires the CMO to utilize DHS chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risk assessments, and CDC guidance, to determine the types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile.

H.R. 3263, first introduced in the 114th Congress, was developed due to

concerns about the possibility of a severe pandemic that could cause illnesses and fatalities and destabilize the operations of DHS. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought these concerns to the forefront.

DHS is responsible for protecting our homeland, but the Department can only do that if it has a safe workforce. Many of the more than 240,000 employees are out on the front lines due to the nature of their responsibilities.

Furthermore, critical supply shortages of personal protective equipment earlier in the pandemic, which affected the Federal Government and State and local governments, also severely impacted DHS operations.

H.R. 3263 is informed by an August 2014 DHS inspector general report. It is also informed by testimony provided during multiple House Homeland Security Committee hearings.

Enactment of this bill will improve DHS’ ability to protect the well-being of DHS personnel so they can fulfill their mission: protecting our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3263, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act offered by my colleague and friend, Representative MILLER-MEEKS.

This bill establishes a critical medical countermeasures program within the Department of Homeland Security to protect the workforce from chemical, biological, radiological, and other public health threats.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us the importance of preparation and risk mitigation in the face of the unknown. At the Department of Homeland Security, where many components have high-risk, public-facing operations, a medical countermeasures program and stockpile are crucial for ensuring mission continuity.

Like the rest of the country, the Department struggled to maintain sufficient supplies throughout the pandemic. That, combined with the reliance on foreign-made personal protective equipment and other medical supplies, highlights the need for this important legislation.

This bill requires the Homeland Security chief medical officer to maintain a medical countermeasures stockpile and develop standards for its storage, security, and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative MILLER-MEEKS for her leadership on this timely bill. I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 3263, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from New York closes.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 3263, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act.

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc all over the world, causing countless deaths, both from COVID and from unexpected causes unrelated to COVID, businesses shuttering, job loss, and our everyday way of life almost coming to a halt. While I am pleased that the United States is heading back to normalcy with three excellent and widely available vaccines, we cannot forget the great struggles that we encountered just last year.

Every day, countless Americans put their lives on the line for others, including the men and women in the Department of Homeland Security. Throughout the pandemic, the agencies and officers at CBP continued to protect our borders; TSA officers secured our transportation system; and representatives from FEMA, who took a lead role in the government’s response to the pandemic, still had to deploy when disaster struck in other areas.

My bill, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act, supports the DHS workforce and Department mission continuity by requiring the Secretary to establish a medical countermeasures program to protect employees and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack; naturally occurring disease outbreak; or pandemic.

This legislation requires the chief medical officer of the Department to maintain a stockpile of medical countermeasures and to develop Department-wide standards for storage, security, placement, dispensing, supply diversity, and documentation of countermeasures.

This bill requires the establishment of a medical countermeasures working group comprised of representatives from relevant Department components and offices to ensure medical countermeasure standards are maintained and guidance is consistent.

Finally, the bill requires the chief medical officer to develop an integrated logistics support plan for medical countermeasures that includes a methodology for determining types and quantities of countermeasures, inventory tracking, and a replenishment plan for existing stockpiles.

Mr. Speaker, as a doctor, former director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, and military veteran, I can assure you I know full well the necessity of medical countermeasures for treatment, diagnosis, and maintaining the safety of our community.

The Department of Homeland Security has over 240,000 employees tasked with jobs ranging from border and aviation security to emergency response and cybersecurity, with one common goal: keeping America safe. It is imperative that materials and processes are put in place to protect the safety and welfare of employees and to

ensure effective pandemic and disaster planning and response for mission continuity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this common-sense bill, H.R. 3263.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge Members to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3263 is a measure that this country needs.

I believe all of us in this body can agree that protecting the health and safety of DHS personnel is critical to homeland security, and to that end, we must pass this bill.

Enactment of H.R. 3263 would strengthen medical countermeasure protocols within the Department and help DHS prepare for and respond to homeland threats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3263, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3263.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

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PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2467, PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2668, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND RECOVERY ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3985, AVERTING LOSS OF LIFE AND INJURY BY EXPEDITING SIVS ACT OF 2021

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 535 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 535

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2467) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules

Committee Print 117-10, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; (2) the further amendments described in section 2 of this resolution; (3) the amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution; and (4) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. After debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution, each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of this resolution shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time after debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution for the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 4. All points of order against the further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2668) to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to affirmatively confirm the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to seek permanent injunctions and other equitable relief for violations of any provision of law enforced by the Commission. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-11 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3985) to amend the Afghan Allies

Protection Act of 2009 to expedite the special immigrant visa process for certain Afghan allies, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. (a) At any time through the legislative day of Thursday, July 22, 2021, the Speaker may entertain motions offered by the Majority Leader or a designee that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV with respect to multiple measures described in subsection (b), and the Chair shall put the question on any such motion without debate or intervening motion.

(b) A measure referred to in subsection (a) includes any measure that was the object of a motion to suspend the rules on the legislative day of July 19, 2021, or July 20, 2021, in the form as so offered, on which the yeas and nays were ordered and further proceedings postponed pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX.

(c) Upon the offering of a motion pursuant to subsection (a) concerning multiple measures, the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated to the end that all such motions are considered as withdrawn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 535, providing for considering of three measures. First, H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act, under a structured rule. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment from Chairman PALLONE, provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their designees, makes in order 10 amendments, provides en bloc authority, and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act, under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1